

December 2023

Hello RETRO Members;

December is a month of jolly celebrations with direct ties to impaired driving due to alcohol and legal drug consumption. The typical December increase is why the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration created [Stop Impaired Driving Month](#). The term *drunk driving* is now commonly referred to as impaired driving because it encompasses alcohol and drugs.



These substances take time to work their way through the human body. Employees can still be impaired hours after partaking in substances that may impair their performance. This can create safety concerns for themselves and their coworkers.

Please review and update your policies, being sure to address alcohol, prescription drug abuse, and recreational drugs as well.

Adhere to Proper Store Open/Close Safety Protocols –

Retail stores often schedule work shifts that require employees to open or close stores during non-daylight hours. Be vigilant in addressing risks and safety hazards that often occur around opening or closing stores, especially for operations that open 24 hours.



Review your opening and closing policies and ensure your employees are trained and prepared for any type of incident.

Resources:

- [RS Safety Library](#) has a section on *Working Late* and *Violence* to help you on this topic.
- Here is the [L&I Rule](#) for reference.
- [SAFEME](#) has a Workplace Violence module that makes a great safety meeting topic. [ENG ESP](#)

Check Fire Safety Equipment - It is an excellent time to review fire safety by:

- Checking fire alarms and smoke detectors.
- Looking over the heating systems and electrical equipment for proper functionality.
- How are the fire extinguishers holding up? Are you checking them monthly?
- Are emergency exit doors free from blockage and operating correctly?
- Are plans in place for everyone to exit safely?



Before a fire happens at your shop, it is crucial to be prepared and have a plan of action and review:

- The responsible person to call the Fire Department
- Who directs customers to exit the store
- Where employees should assemble during an emergency

Resources:

- [RS Safety Library](#) for handouts and a PowerPoint in the *Fire* section.
- [RS SafetyTV](#) also has some great videos.
- **SAFEME** has a Fire Extinguisher module. [ENG ESP](#)

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

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